THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Chairman Central Board of Direct Taxes in an interview to a press agency had drawn attention to the fact that the Department was poised to collect a sum of Rs. 26,000 crores as direct taxes in the current year.

(b) The above target is sought to be achieved by following means—

(i) Drive to increase collections specially through TDS;

(ii) Drive to widen the tax base;

(iii) Computerisation; and

(iv) Enforcing accountability.

The objectives of increasing collections and widening the tax base are sought to be achieved by effective implementation of Section 194-I, covering rentals, Section 44AD and Section 44AE providing foi quick estimate of income of truck operators and small contractors, Presumptive Tax Scheme, etc.

New Pension Scheme in Public Sector Banks

1958. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks have already introduced new Pension Scheme as per industry-wise settlement on 29th October, 1993; and

(b) by when the said scheme will be introduced in case of Regional Rural Bank as per Tribunal Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) IBA has reported that Public Sector Banks have already taken steps to introduce pension scheme as per the settlement dated 29-10-1993, inter-alia, by inviting options from retired as well as existing employees. Payment of pension to the retired employees will start soon after the above formalities have been completed and the respective boards of the banks have approved the amendments to their Banks' Officers' Service Regulations.

(b) The said settlement for pension scheme dated 29-10-1993 does not cover the employees of Regional Rural Banks.

All India Regional Rural Bank Employees' Association

1959. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) why the Chairman, Hadoti Kshetriya Grameen Bank Employees' Association affiliated to All India Regional Rural Bank Employees' Association is not being allowed to discuss their issues with the Chairman of the said bank; and

(b whether there is any bar for any Regional Rural Bank to discuss the issue officially with the unrecognised association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) As per information made available by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) no recognised association existed in Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank and therefore the bank was advised to discuss the matter with employees representatives with a view to keep harmonious relations with the workers. The information whether the Chairman of the bank has disallowed any unrecognised Association to discuss the matter is being ascertained from the bank and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disinvestment of Non-SLR Fund of RRBs

1960. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has approved the securities etc. for disinvestment of Non-SLR fund of Reegional Rural Bank as suggested by NABARD; and

(b) what are the possible areas where Regional Rural Banks can invest their surplus fund and what will be the rate of interest to be offered o RRBs by the respective agency thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there is no proposal to specify and approve securities etc. for disinvestment of Non-SLR funds of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). However, with a view to making the investment portfolio of RRBs profitable, issue of guidelines to RRBs regarding profitable avenues for investment of surplus available after metting credit responsibility, statutory and reserve requirement etc. is under consideration of National Bank for Agrictulure and Rural Development (NABARD) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

IFCI Revival Schemes for PSUs

1961. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IFCI has not made any effort so long to prepare the revival schemes of the PSUs which were referred to it by the BIFR;

(b) whether the BIFR is unable to consider the revival packages due to lack of support from IFCIF;

(c) whether Government would direct the IFCI to follow the orders of BIFR; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

cI and (d) Do not arise.

Title deeds of Immovable Properties of of SBI

1962. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India, Kanpur and Lucknow has been keeping under its possession all he title deeds of immovable properties earmarked for the Central Government Undertakings M/s. Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited for providing CC and other Accounts ;

(b) whether no proper evaluation of the properties so held by SBI has been made as per present market value;

(c) whether as a result the company is not allowed to get proper working capital to boost production and export business; and

(d) if so, facts and details thereof with correct details of immovable properties of the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (d) In accordance with the provisions and statutes governing public sector banks, the information relating to individual constituents of the bank cannot be divulged.

Reduction in the ranks of agents by LIC, North Zone

1963. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LIC, North Central Zone has been reducing ranks of its agents under the status of various club membership;

(b) whether some branches had accepted insurance policies with first premium but had not issued the respective policy bonds during the last 3-4 years;

(c- whether to avoid embarrassment to branch officers, the LIC is harassing the agents; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that there may be a few stray cases of delay in issuance of policies.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of Nationalised Banks in Assam

1964. SHRI BHADRESHWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the reason for gradual closing of nationalised banks in Assam; and

(b) how many banks have since been closed down during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies with Excise Duty Arrears

1965. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the compaines, firms and other entities against whom Excise Duty arrears to the tune of Rs. 10 crores or above were outstanding as on 1st April, 1st July and 1st October, 1994 and how many and which of them are located in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the reasons for such heavy accumulation of arrears; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY : (a) The information is given in the Statement attached (*See* below) .

(b) Cases are pending with Supreme Court, High Courts, CEGAT, etc.. In some cases Supreme Court has extended the period for recovery of dues till 31-12-94.

(c) Recovery can be enforced only after the duty liability has been confirmed in accordance with the law. Therefore, pendency of departmental proceedings is reviewed and monitored at various supervisory levels and the adjudicating authorities are advised from time to time to conclude them expeditiously. As regards the proceedings pending before the Courts and the Tribunal, steps taken to have